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今日北京

# BEIJING TODAY

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## ART BORN IN THE '80S

THE 'CARTOON GENERATION' MAY BE GROWING UP, BUT THEIR  
NOSTALGIC ART IS NOT. ZHANG HUI'S PAINTINGS ARE CLEARLY  
SHAPED BY A CHILDHOOD SPENT IN FRONT OF THE TV. **P.4**



北京青年报  
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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# ENTERTAINMENT



Photos by douban.com

## Hou Hsiao-hsien and The Assassin

BY DIAO DIAO

**T**he *Assassin*, the film that made director Hou Hsiao-hsien the darling of the 68th Cannes International Film Festival, landed in Chinese theaters on August 27.

Starring Shu Qi, Chang Chen, Ethan Juan and Japanese actor Tsumabuki Satoshi, *The Assassin* is based on a character from the short story collection *Legend*.

Set in the Tang Dynasty, the film follows Nie Yinniang, the daughter of a low-ranking general who is spirited away by a Taoist nun at the age of 10 and trained to kill her cousin Tian Ji'an. Yinniang's mother tries to stop her mission to avoid bringing chaos to

the Yuan family.

As Yinniang's father escorts an army leader to a safe place, she secretly follows them and learns the Yuan family has attacked her father to seize control of the country.

Although *The Assassin* found an audience abroad, in China it fails to stand up to Hou's former films. The script is a confusing hodgepodge that attempts to blend modern and classical Chinese – a problem exacerbated by chaotic editing. However, the scenery is undoubtedly beautiful and does a great job of capturing the magic of the Tang Dynasty.

Most of the film's supporters on the

mainland seem more interested in the director's story than *Assassin's*.

Hou was born in Guangdong province in 1947 and moved to Taiwan with his family. His father died when Hou was 12 years old; his mother followed five years later. Their deaths sent him into a downward spiral that destroyed his grades, cost him college admission and left him with few options outside the military.

As a soldier, Hou watched the English film *Crossroad* and decided to dedicate his life to filmmaking.

He enrolled in film school after he finished military service but failed to

find work in the industry. Hou ultimately ended up selling computers.

It wasn't until 1973 that Hou actually did something related to film. Director Lee Hsing was looking for a screenwriter, and Hou's teacher recommended him.

In less than 10 years, Hou developed a style focused on long shots, and many of his films began to appear at film festivals. Among all his films, *Flowers of Shanghai* is the best known, starring the famous couple, Hong Kong actor Leung Chiu Wai and actress Carina Lau.

Others focused more on the personal story of actress Shu Qi.

Shu got her start as a model and adult film star. She was the first actress to win Best Supporting Actress and Best New Actress for an adult film at the Hong Kong Film Awards. Shu eventually decided to put on the clothes that she took off when she was young, and won many fans with popular films including *If You Are The One*, *Three Times* and *Gone With the Bullets*. ■



## Girls' Efforts Call for Respect

BY DIAO DIAO

**W**hen tennis star Li Na said her dream was to be a housewife with as few responsibilities as possible, millions of Chinese women were nodding in agreement.

But when Li uttered her words, she had already devoted 15 years to becoming one of the world's top tennis talents. Few of those nodding young women could say they have given similar dedication to anything.

That is the crux of *Please Respect Girls' Efforts*, the latest book from popular freelance writer Yang Xiwen. Her idea for the book came as much from Li Na's story as her experiences as a student in New Zea-

land. It has been especially popular with readers who have overseas experience.

Yang says payback and returns are not what women should be looking for. Effort should be more about taking control of one's own life than becoming outstanding or different.

Yang met different kinds of students. Some enjoyed a luxurious life bankrolled by irresponsible parents. Others dropped out of school and spent heavily on their looks with the goal of marrying a rich man. Both looked down on Yang when she went to work wearing average, smelly clothes.

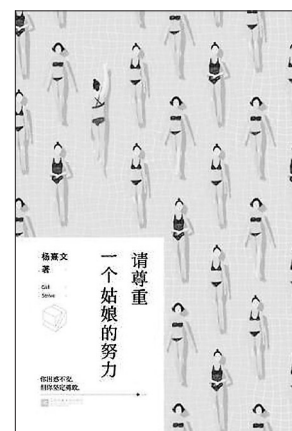
Yang experienced their bullying and

survived. She describes a life spent living out of a suitcase with no guarantee of a shelter; racial and gender discrimination; and endless part-time work.

One day, she realized that everyone's parents would get old and become unable to support themselves. Asking a husband to provide financial support to her parents would be depressing, she said.

Yang's stories offer vignettes of different female lives and advice on how young women can take control of their lives and live proudly.

The book's mass-market release on the Chinese mainland is scheduled for October 1. ■





# MUSIC



Photos by Liudehua Band

## LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

### Nim @ Mao Live House

Nim is a Japanese band founded in 2003. Over the last 12 years, their style has evolved from emo to vocal post rock. The band's music is inspired by Kyoto's nature scenes. The vocalist says he meditates in the forest to extract information from the trees. Nim released their first album, *Perfect Chicken*, in 2008 and cooperated with To Overflow Evidence and released the EP *Suggesting the Possibility* last year. The band is currently touring nine Chinese cities.

⌚ 8:30-10 pm, September 25  
📍 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng  
💎 60 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)

### J-Fever & Soulspeak Album Release @ Yugong Yishan

China's most respected freestyle rapper, J-Fever, and the LA-raised super producer Soulspeak have teamed up again. Their second album, *Color Blind*, was released on September 15. *Color Blind* offers a kaleidoscope of emotions and messages centered on love and desire. Against the bump 'n' grind backdrop of beats shaped by Soulspeak, J-Fever gets freakier than ever with lyrics that swing from playful flirtation to deep, deep lovin', all the while retaining the poetic, philosophical heart that his fans love him for.

⌚ 9-10:30 pm, September 25  
📍 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng  
💎 80 yuan (pre sale), 100 yuan (at door)

### The Randy Abel Stable @ DDC Club

The Randy Abel Stable is an American country rock band founded in Beijing in 2011. Band members come from America and China. The band cites the influence of The Rolling Stones and Hank Williams. The members play banjo and mandolin, as well as a variety of Chinese folk instruments. They released their first album, *Stable Condition*, in 2013.

⌚ 9-11 pm, September 25  
📍 14 Shanlao Hutong, Dongcheng  
💎 42 yuan (pre sale), 84 yuan (at door with CD)

### Ju Qi @ Hot Cat Club

Ju Qi is a folk singer and the vocalist of the band Mr. Kr. He was born in Nanjing on April Fool's Day of 1988. Ju is a well-educated man and has written more than 200 songs since he started playing music in 2003. He also won several awards in some Chinese music festivals. His new album, *The Floating City*, is being released this month.

⌚ 8:30-10 pm, September 25  
📍 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng  
💎 60 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)

## Rock and Dongbei Comedy Merge in Liudehua's Music

BY DIAO DIAO

Li Fantao's family never wanted him to pursue a career as a bass guitarist. But with Li now 38 years old, his parents are beyond the age of caring.

Li was a founding member of Liudehua in 2007. Today, most of his band mates are approaching their early forties. Most groups in a similar age bracket tend to be serious, but Liudehua favors the humorous style of Chinese folk, especially Dongbei Errenzhuan.

Errenzhuan operatic style is a distinctive feature of China's northeast. Its humorous performances depend on two people singing with delightful rhythms and exaggerated tones.

It's an unusual choice for a rock band, to say the least, but one born of practical concerns.

Most of Liudehua's members hail from China's northeast, where access to foreign rock was a rare luxury in the 1980s and early 1990s. In spite of their interest in guitars and drums, local opera remained what they knew best.

"Since no company noticed us or wanted to sign with us, we had no choice but to go the indie route," Li says.

Li compared music to wanderlust.

"We listened to Errenzhuan and other Chinese folk music, and we wanted more," Li says. "Listeners like new things, like when opera is combined with rock, and that's why our audiences always come back."

When the band formed in 2007, comedy star Stephen Chow and skit actor Zhao Benshan were the most popular celebrities on the television. Chow was known for his absurd humor and Zhao for his irony and Dongbei dialect.

Their success inspired the band to incorporate humor into their music and stage shows. That's how they came up with the band's name, Liudehua: an attempt to bolster moral principles and criticize the absurd.

Wu Dong joked it was also because his friend said he looks like the Hong Kong heartthrob Andy Lau, whose name is pronounced as "Liu Dehua" in standard Chinese.

Liudehua's music pokes fun at the absurd and criticizes the ridiculous. In "Cheaters and Their Sadness," the words satirize China's ubiquitous SMS scammers. In "Beipiao," they jeer at the abysmal living conditions shared by most who come to Beijing to chase

their dreams.

Wu Dong, the band's vocalist, said he was a beipiao in 2000 and worked multiple odd jobs to support his brief musical endeavors. Hard as it was, he says the completion of a song is worth much more than any beauty product or luxury good.

Lei Yi, the 36-year-old guitarist, hesitated about his future at graduation.

"To work or to play music was a big question," he says.

Li says he cherishes his friendship with the other band members the most. In music, they share a bond that's alien to his coworkers.

Zhang Tong, a 35-year-old administrator in a state-owned company, says music is a lifetime friend that will always be with him.

The band is currently on the search for new inspiration.

"Chinese singers have a reputation for being impulsive, lazy and thoughtless. Foreign artists can spend a decade on one project. Why can't we?" Wu says.

The group is hoping to have its second album out in 2016. ■





# ARTISTS

# Art of the Cartoon Generation



*Brothers: Measure*



*Grand Prospect*



*Miss you*



*Life I*



*Grabbing Flower*

*Crystal Heart*



*Thinking No.2 (sculpture)*



*Keep Silent*

BY SHU PENGQIAN

China changed forever in December 1980. But it wasn't because of a centrally planned policy of any stone-faced government official: it was because of an atom-powered Japanese superhero.

CCTV's broadcasting of *Astro Boy* marked the first airing of a foreign cartoon on the Chinese mainland. A year later, China Science Popularization Publisher began printing Osamu Tezuka's iconic comic series in Chinese.

Foreign animation has had profound influence on the lives of Chinese adults born in the 1970s and 1980s. Even today, most have a strong emotional response to cartoon imagery.

Artist Zhang Hui was born in 1983 – dead in the middle of what became China's "cartoon generation." Her paintings feature rough figures similar to the style of China's earliest cartoons – bodies almost without mouths, noses and fingers. It's a style that evolved unconsciously.

At first she was proud of her creations, but she soon became uneasy about the idea that viewers were appreciating her art's similarity to childhood imagery rather than its actual quality. Letting go of that anxiety took her several years.

Zhang's characters have big, round faces and small eyes. The whites of their eyes are unusually prominent as most gaze upward, a sign of their confusion about the future and unwillingness to yield. Most of the figures are dressed in the popular fashions of the early 1980s.

Each picture includes a deeper meaning that is tied to her feeling at the time of creation. But where other artists spell out their intent, Zhang is resolved to leave her audience guessing.

In *Life I*, a group of women gaze at a great pile of cabbages. Most wear the same red cotton-padded jackets that northern women favored in the 1980s and 1990s. In *Grand Prospect*, five students in green uniform and red scarves sit barefoot in some chairs.

Except for costume, these figures' actions depict daily scenes that remain prevalent in rural China.

In *Brothers: Measure*, four brothers with red vests work together to saw through a block of wood. Other images feature day laborers resting in a trolley or farmers harvesting their corn.

Zhang shapes her figures based on memories of her parents' behavior in the 1980s. "I was born in a village in Xinxiang, Henan province. Even if life was hard, I remember it being happy," Zhang says. "Things in my memory are simple and sweet, and I want to leave those stories on my canvas."

Unlike many artists in her generation who grew up in artistic households, Zhang was raised in a family with no academic or artistic background. Her father was a local carpenter and her mother was an illiterate woman from the countryside who excelled at embroidery.

Zhang has never complained about her family's inability to offer her connections or guidance in her career. "Maybe it's my family's influence, but I'm really stubborn and wouldn't give up when I'm halfway to being a professional painter," Zhang says.

Making a career of art is incredibly difficult in China, and virtually impossible for people who lack both personal wealth and familial support. Fortunately, Zhang can depend on the moral support of her family and a bit of financial support from her cousin.

"For me, [my cousin and his wife] are as important as my parents," Zhang says.

It's the mental satisfaction of the creative process that drives Zhang onward in spite of financial difficulty.

"*Flowing Fragrance of Flower* was the first painting I sold. It brought me a little bit of money and gave me hope and courage to continue my work," she says.

Apart from painting, Zhang also works as a sculptor. Her undergraduate degree was in sculpture, and her master's degree was in oil painting.

"I was confused about how to integrate the two fields together," she says. "Now I think the best way is to just work in both media." ■



# A TRAVEL

## Beach Getaways for the Fall

BY SIMINA MISTREANU



**T**he ocean's constant murmur, comforting sand and fresh, salty air are still there during the fall. What is lacking are the thousands of tourists who crowd China's northern beaches.

Early fall is one of the best times to visit the beach. You can find a quiet spot to take in the view and the breeze, or hike along the coastline. Visit one of Beijing's coastal cities, such as Qingdao or Dalian, to mix culture and tasty food into your seaside experience; or camp out on the isolated beaches of Emerald Island.

An early-fall visit to the ocean is a great way to say goodbye to summer and recalibrate for the upcoming fall and winter.

### Shanhaiguan, Qinhuangdao and Beidaihe

Shanhaiguan is where the Great Wall meets the Bohai Sea. It's a great spot for a day trip. Trains leave every hour from Beijing Railway Station and Beijing South Station, with fast trains making the trip in about two hours.

About 5 kilometers south of the Shanhaiguan train station is Laolongtou, the "old dragon's head" at the eastern end of the Great Wall, which extends into the sea. Visitors can walk on the wall until it becomes surrounded by waves on three sides. A small Buddhist temple off the coast offers beautiful views of the wall and the ocean.

Two other nearby attractions are worth visiting: Shanhai Pass, also known as the First Pass under Heaven, which was built during the Ming Dynasty to fortify the passage between the Yan Mountains and the Bohai Sea; and Jiumenkou, a section that runs down a deep valley and features one of the wall's few bridges.

For a full weekend getaway, you can spend the second day at Beidaihe, the famous summer resort south of Qinhuangdao. In 2013, Beidaihe ranked 60th on CNN's list of the world's best beaches. A favorite among Communist Party leaders and Russian tourists, the resort gets very crowded in the summer, which is also why it might be best to visit it off-season.

### Qingdao

Dubbed the "Switzerland of the Orient," the coastal city of Qingdao boasts European architecture, delicious seafood and the home of China's popular Tsingtao beer. The city also has some beautiful beaches along its 730-kilometer-long coastline.

The fall is perfect for hikes along the Qingdao Seashore Scenic Area, a 25-kilometer stretch in the south of the city featuring mountains, beaches and local architecture.

Stroll along Qingdao Bay, the first of the six sections in the scenic area. Next, Huiquan Bay offers some of Qingdao's most beautiful bathing beaches. Taiping Hill is known for its abundant vegetation and animals. Further west, red-tiled roofed villas dot the Badaguan Scenic Area.

The Eastern New City Area, built in the 1990s, is Qingdao's center for finance, commerce and entertainment. Finally, the Shilaoren Tourist Holiday Resort is surrounded by three hills, with flowers, bushes, a fine-sand beach and reefs. The area also includes cultural hotspots such as the Dolphin Performance Museum and Beer Town, which offers culinary rewards and lots of beer at the end of a long hike.

### Dalian

Dalian is another of China's northeastern port cities. Like Qingdao, it endured foreign occupation in the 19th and 20th centuries, when sections of the city fell under British, Russian and Japanese rule. More recently, Dalian has emerged as one of China's most relaxed and livable cities, as well as a flourishing financial center.

The city also has some beautiful beaches. Golden Stone Beach, 50 kilometers north of the city, is a long pebbly beach with gorgeous coves and rock formations. The rocks have been dubbed the "solidified animal world" because of their shapes: a bird spreading its wings, monkeys watching the sea, camels, turtles, tigers and dinosaurs.

A wonderful way to explore Dalian's coastline is Binhai Road, a 32-kilometer trail that was built in the 1970s for military purposes. In the 1980s, Deng Xiaoping suggested it be opened to the public. The route includes a 21-kilometer long wooden boardwalk – the longest in China. The road snakes along the sea and the mountains and includes 11 observation platforms and features 12 parks, squares, beaches, villages and scenic areas.

### Emerald Island

Emerald Island is a peninsula south of Qinhuangdao where the desert meets vegetation and the sea. It is one of China's seven national marine natural reserves, and thus it has been spared from tourism development. You can camp out near the sand dunes and enjoy the scenery and wildlife, including about 68 types of birds.

Emerald Island's best feature is its fine desert sand, which caresses bare feet and extends into the clear water. The highest sand dune reaches 44 meters. The peninsula has managed to keep modern human life at bay for the most part. Nevertheless, there's organized sand slides on the lower dunes. ■



CFP Photos





# ETCETERA

## Gao Leng, Ren Xing, Zui Le

BY DIAO DIAO



### Gāo Lěng (高冷)

Gāo Lěng is used to describe men and women who act cold and seem to have no interest in what other people say. Usually Gāo Lěng look arrogant or have a poker face. The word is also used to describe a woman with dark, heavy makeup who looks elegant.



### Rèn Xìng (任性)

The word was originally used to describe a spoiled child. But a news report in April gave the expression a new, sarcastic meaning.

Mr. Liu spent 1,760 yuan on male health products online. Soon after, he received a phone call from someone who told him he should buy another kind of medicine to obtain the best effect. Liu remitted 5,500 yuan to that account. Over the next four months, Liu kept receiving similar calls, and he kept sending money. Liu knew that he might be cheated but continued to remit money.

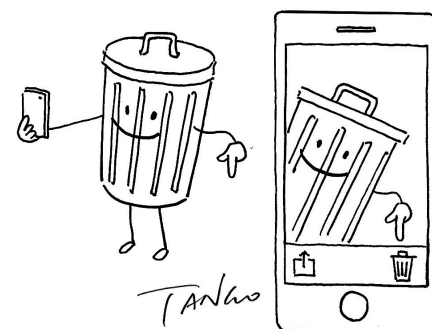
The cheaters ran out of reasons to ask for money after getting 300,000 yuan, so they pretended to be a different group of people calling Liu to tell him that the others may have been

cheaters. They cheated Liu of another 70,000 yuan. In total, Liu was cheated of 544,000 yuan. The funniest thing is that he knew he was being cheated when he remitted 70,000 yuan, but he thought the sum was not big enough to call the police's attention. He also wanted to see how much money the cheaters could get from him. Finally the police caught the swindlers, but Liu's case sparked an online conversation.

People said he was so rich that he could risk losing such a large amount of money just to play with the cheaters. So he inspired the phrase Rèn Xìng, which describes people who want to play jokes on their friends. Also, people who only lick the yogurt on the lid and throw away the cup are called Rèn Xìng. ■



### WEEKLY TANGO



Tango studies at Tsinghua University's Academy of Art and Design. For more comics, follow his Sina Weibo feed at [tangocartoon](#).

## Ask Beijing Today

"Ask Beijing Today" is our weekly column that attempts to make life in China less confusing.

You can email your own questions to [ask@beijingtoday.com.cn](mailto:ask@beijingtoday.com.cn).

**Q. Where can I buy Cuban cigars in Beijing? I'm looking to buy three to four for a friend's party.**

A: We know about three prestigious stores and clubs in Beijing that sell Cuban cigars:

#### Beijing Friendship Store

17 Jianguomenwai Dajia, Chaoyang

#### 1492 CASA Habana Cigar Club

5 Jianguomenwai Dajia, Chaoyang

#### Cohiba Atmosphere Club

3F, Tower C, Yintai Center, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajia, Chaoyang

**Q. Can you recommend some hutong hostels in Beijing? Which ones have better sanitary conditions?**

A. Most youth hostels here claim to offer good accommodations. We are familiar with two of them. Beijing Far East International Youth Hostel is located in a preserved hutong area. The hostel has been open for more than 70 years. It has a traditional Chinese courtyard adjoining the main building. If you are into Chinese history, you might want to try it out.

Another option is Peking International Youth Hostel, in the charming Nanluogu Xiang in downtown Beijing. This hostel has a more modern design, compared to that of Beijing Far East.

#### Beijing Far East International Youth Hostel

90 Tieshuxie Jie, Xicheng

#### Peking International Youth Hostel

113-2 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng

**Q. Where is the best sushi in Beijing?**

A. One of our colleagues recommends Shotamuni Restaurant. Lunchtime is always bustling at this local Japanese

chain, which is known for its inventive rolls and fresh sashimi and sushi. Discounts are offered every Friday. Another popular sushi brand here is Matsuko, which has been serving sushi buffets since 1992. It feeds white-collar types with sushi, sashimi, noodles and more. This popular place is also a bit more expensive.

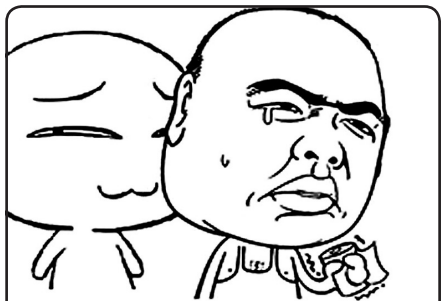
#### Shotamuni Restaurant in U-Town Lifestyle Center

1 Sanfeng Beili, Chaoyang

#### Matsuko in Baijiazhuang

22 Baijiazhuang, Chaoyang

## THE BEIJING TODAY HUMOR



**Q. Is there any application that can run on my laptop and mobile phone at the same time, while keep monitoring my schedule, emails, phone calls and messages?**

A. Yes. Your wife.

**Q. What can I do to avoid getting hit in the face by ponytails while in the elevator?**

A. Buy elevator shoes.

**Q. What does it mean when a company asks for a job candidate who 'loves life'?**

A. It means they want someone who

**Q. Why quit from Microsoft?**  
A. It's cool.



won't kill himself in the office.

**Q. Why is Starbucks seldom seen in Italy?**

A. Would an American open a hotpot chain in Chengdu and cook it in microwave ovens?

**Q. Why do programmers wear laptop**



**Q. Why do most relationship experts always encourage couples to break up?**  
A. They are saving themselves from future questions.

bags everywhere they go?  
A. That's the only bag they own.

**Q. What annoys girls the most when hanging out with IT guys?**

A. They have all of Steve Jobs' shortcomings and none of his accomplishments.

**Q. What's the best way to survive Singles' Day?**  
A. Buy yourself hand cream. Your hands will probably need it.



**Q. I'm in a relationship and just met a girl who is prettier, kinder and richer. What should I do?**

A. Do nothing. Dating is like an election. You always expect the candidate you vote for to make a difference, but nothing changes once he's in office. (Questions selected from Zhihu.)

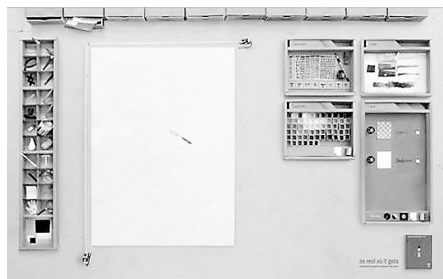
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# Q CLASSIFIEDS

## ART



### Graphic Design Course

Graphic design, also known as communication design, is the art and practice of planning and projecting ideas and experiences with visual and textual content. The form of communication can be physical or virtual, and may include images, words or graphic forms. It can happen at any scale, from the design of a single postage stamp to a national postal signage system, or from a company's digital avatar to the sprawling and interlinked digital and physical content of an international newspaper.

All year long, students will learn how to master the necessary computer skills for digital creations and learn how to use Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. They will finish the year with a real professional graphic-design formation and be able to do their own digital creations.

You will need your own laptop with the software needed for the class installed. Daytime classes and workshops are also possible.

🕒 7:30 - 9:30 am, September 24  
📍 Room 202, Building C, Jinxiu Yuan, Xingfucun Zhong Lu, Chaoyang  
☎ (010) 6416 1614



### Art China 2015

Supported by various government and private agencies, Art China 2015 is being held at the National Agricultural Exhibition Center from September 25 to 27. The event will be open from 9:30 am to 6 pm each day. Tickets cost 60 yuan, but visitors who plan ahead can get free tickets by contacting Art China organizers on WeChat (artchina-cj).

Art China will explore the present value of traditional and classic art in both aesthetics and collectable value, as well as expose contemporary art by cutting-edge experimentalists. The works to be shown in Art China range from Chinese paintings and calligraphy to oil paintings, print and engraving, sculptures, installations and films. Pieces that represent China's intangible cultural heritage will be given special attention.

🕒 9:30 am - 6 pm, September 25-27  
📍 National Agricultural Exhibition Centre, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang  
💰 60 yuan

## COMMUNITY



### Beijing Mentor Walks

Beijing Mentor Walks Since 2013, Capital M, Ellevote Network Beijing (formerly 85 Broads), AustCham Beijing, Viva and AmCham China have hosted Beijing Mentor Walks. Each supporting organization coordinates a different month of the Mentor Walk. This year it adds Viva as a supporting organization.

Mentors and mentees gather in the park for an informal early morning walk on the second Friday of each month. The group meets at 7:45 am by the gates of Ritan Park or Chaoyang Park and walks in smaller groups for approximately an hour.

All participants must arrive promptly so groups can begin their walks at 8 am. The meeting point for the next walk will be the south gate of Ritan Park.

Participation is free but limited; confirm your participation in advance. If you register and are unable to attend the Mentor Walk, please inform the organizers at least one day in advance of the scheduled Mentor Walk. Participants who register and fail to attend twice will be banned from future Mentor Walks.

Mentor Walks bring together established women and emerging women leaders in our community to connect, learn, mentor and share experiences. As they walk, they discuss their professional and personal challenges, successes, aspirations and lessons learned.

Mentees will be introduced to the walk's esteemed mentors and gain the opportunity to select a Mentor based on preferences and availability. Mentor and mentee groups are typically three to five people. Participants get the chance to seek advice from seasoned professionals who will provide an open ear, honest feedback and meaningful guidance.

🕒 7:45 - 9:00 am, multiple dates  
📍 Ritan Park, 6 Ritan Bei Lu, Chaoyang  
☎ (010) 8561 6301

## Startup Monday

Interested in launching a startup? Learn how others got started, what went wrong, what surprised them, and what happened as their companies grew. Join us at our weekly Monday video lectures from Y Combinator, and join in on the discussion afterwards to see, learn and discuss the topic of the day.

Patrick Collison is an Irish entrepreneur from County Limerick. He was the winner of the 41st Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in 2005 and the individual runner-up at the 40th Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition.

John Collison is an Irish student and entrepreneur. He is best known for having co-founded Stripe with his brother Patrick Collison in 2007. Collison founded Shuppa with his older brother Patrick Collison in Limerick, Ireland, and the company later merged with Automatic, which was funded by Y Combinator.

Ben Silberman is an American Internet entrepreneur who co-founded and is CEO of Pinterest, a virtual pinboard that lets users organize images, links and recipes.

The event is hosted by Origins Technology, a young technology start up focused on creating cutting-edge smart devices that help people build and sustain a healthy lifestyle. The company, founded in 2014, develops, manufactures and markets the OxyBox, a highly efficient and affordable air purifier that reduces indoor pollutants to levels below those found in the Swiss Alps. The company's second product, the Laser Egg, is an inexpensive, and efficient air quality monitor.

🕒 7:30 - 9:30 pm, September 28  
🔗 [eventbrite.com/e/startup-monday-tickets-17998327482](http://eventbrite.com/e/startup-monday-tickets-17998327482)

## FILM



### The French 7th Art: Van Gogh (1991)

*Van Gogh* is a 1991 French film written and directed by Maurice Pialat. It stars Jacques Dutronc in the role of Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, for which he won the 1992 Cesar Award for Best Actor. Set in 1890, the film follows the last 67 days of Van Gogh's life and explores his relationships with his

brother Theo, his physician Paul Gachet and the women in his life, including Gachet's daughter, Marguerite.

🕒 8-9:30 pm, multiple dates  
📍 Institut Francais, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Guangcai International Mansion, Chaoyang  
☎ (010) 6553 2627



### The French 7th Art: Children of Paradise (1945)

Poetic realism reached sublime heights with *Children of Paradise*, widely considered one of the greatest French films of all time. This nimble depiction of 19th century Paris's theatrical demimonde, filmed during World War II, follows a mysterious woman (Arletty) loved by four different men: an actor, a criminal, a count and, most poignantly, a mime.

And thanks to a major new restoration, this iconic classic looks and sounds richer and more detailed than ever.

🕒 1:30-3 pm, multiple dates  
📍 Institut Francais, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Guangcai International Mansion, Chaoyang  
☎ (010) 6553 2627

## MUSIC



### Resonance of Water

Experimental Audio-Visual Theater Water is the origin of life. Our bodies are made up of approximately 55 to 75 percent water. With this in mind, it is only natural for us to want to observe, listen and interact with it. In 2015, visual artist, Chai Mi, had the idea to conduct an experimental audio-visual performance incorporating water. Together with two artists, he created an atmospheric multimedia theatre.

🕒 7:30 pm - midnight, September 29  
📍 Muye Art Space, 20 Jingtu Hutong, Dongcheng  
☎ (010) 8403 0412

origins



# FOODS



## Celebrate Autumn with Old Beijing Snacks



CFP Photos



BY WANG YAN

**A**utumn is the best time to be in Beijing. In no other season do travelers have a better chance to glimpse the ever-elusive blue sky.

Writer Yu Dafu wrote in *Old Capital's Autumn*, "If I could make it autumn all year in Beijing, I would give up two-thirds of my life." While that's probably poetic exaggeration, it's undeniable that autumn is when Beijing is at its best.

As an ancient capital of several dynasties, Beijing has inherited many peculiar snacks. Many old hutong restaurants specialize in the more exotic of these such as fried pig liver and tripe cooked with soy sauce, mashed garlic, starch and aniseed, a dish known simply as chao gan'r.

Chao gan'r was a popular breakfast dish during the Qing Dynasty. Although its name translates to fried liver, the organ accounts for only a third of the dish. The best chao gan'r contains a sparkling soup of tender tripe. Traditionally it was served with a plate of steamed dumplings.

Be warned: it's every bit as greasy as it sounds.

Another famous Beijing dish is the local style of sausage, called guanchang. The sausage filling is a mix of spices and starchy grains like wheat and rice flour. The sausages are twisted, boiled and cut into cubes for frying. Plates are served topped with a salty garlic paste.

The capital also has some sweeter snacks for diners who want to avoid the grease.

Rolling Donkeys (lǚ dagun) might be the best-known sweet snack of Old Beijing. The treat was first recorded in the early Qing Dynasty. Sheets of sticky rice dough are rolled together with red bean paste and covered in a soybean flour crumble. The cake is yellow, sweet and sticky.

Another sweet snack from Beijing is fried dough rings, or jiaoquan. Resembling something closer to a brown bracelet than a doughnut, the rings are crispy and fragrant. The main ingredients are flour and salt, and they are usually eaten with a glass of soymilk or wrapped in a jianbing.

Because the production process is complicated and the profit margins are low, few snack shops are willing to serve jiaoquan. The dough rings are an extremely high-calorie food, so China Highlights suggests exercising restraint when eating. ■

## Old Beijing Flavors at De Hezhai

BY WANG YAN

**T**he city has plenty of restaurants that specialize in the traditional dishes of Old Beijing. De Hezhai might not be as famous as some of those time-honored brands, but it's a decent choice for folks who want to taste tradition on a budget.

Located on Jintai Road, the restaurant is very well-known for its dessert of almond tofu. The fresh milk dessert comes in the shape of tofu and has a strong nutty flavor. Many customers on Dianping praised its chewy texture.

Priced at 10 yuan, the almond tofu is probably De Hezhai's most popular order. One customer called the restaurant's almond tofu the city's best.

The small restaurant has been featured on Beijing Television's (BTV) culinary programs, and several food critics have praised its work. Its Beijing-style eggplant noodles were also featured by BTV.

De Hezhai serves other local dishes such as zhajiangmian, fried liver and Old Beijing sausage, or guanchang.

Customers said the restaurant is very easy to find, being a five-minute walk from the Jintai Subway Station. Diners praised the restaurant's staff, saying they are very helpful and friendly. ■



Photo by dianping.com

### MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

## Learn to Make Zhajiangmian

BY WANG YAN

**Z**hajiangmian, a combination of salty, fried bean sauce and noodles, is one of the most popular dishes to come out of Old Beijing.

The dish can be found on the menus of both street vendors and five-star restaurants. This recipe will yield perfectly chewy noodles and a rich, meaty sauce.

### Ingredients:

- 500g ground pork
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 1/2 tsp white pepper
- 3 slices ginger, minced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 fresh mushrooms, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp sweet bean sauce
- 3 tbsp ground bean paste
- 1 tbsp dark soy sauce

- 1 cup water
- 500 noodles
- 1 cup julienned carrots
- 1 cup julienned cucumbers
- 1/2 cup julienned scallions



### The Steps:

1. Mix the salt, cornstarch, oil and white pepper into a paste. Use it to marinate the pork for 15 minutes.
2. Heat up a wok over a medium flame. Add the pork and cook until it turns brown. Add the ginger and garlic.
3. Chop the mushrooms. Add them to the wok and stir-fry for 2-3 minutes.
4. Add the sweet bean sauce, bean paste, dark soy sauce and water, stirring everything together well.
5. Lower the heat and cover the wok. Allow the sauce to simmer for 15-20 minutes. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking.
6. Boil the noodles and mix them with a spoonful of the sauce. Add the julienned carrots, cucumbers and scallions before serving.